Course of Study
Siena College and Schuyler Meadows GC will cooperate on long-term environmental studies... 3

Off the Record
Having decided to rethink its greens construction specs, the USGA solicits research proposals... 13

15,000 and Counting!
GCN and the NGF have identified the nation’s 15,000th course, which opened for play this spring... 46

Top dressing breakthrough: Crumb rubber
By Mark Leslie
WILMINGTON, Ohio — After five years of extensive study, Michigan State University (MSU) researchers are recommending crumb rubber, or finely chopped automobile tires, as a top dressing for high-traffic areas on golf courses and athletic fields.

“As much as we incorporated it into the soil profile, we never saw the panic that people wanted. But we did find great results when top dressing it onto established turf,” Dr. John "Trey" Rogers III of MSU said of crumb rubber.

“When we incorporated it, the...” Continued on page 25

Claims drain funding for UST clean-up
By Peter Blais
Nebraska recently delayed the clean-up of some 6,000 contaminated underground storage tank (UST) sites because its state-controlled cleanup fund is almost out of money. This spring, cash-strapped New Mexico diverted half the $14 million in its UST clean-up and indemnification fund to other uses. Michigan declared its fund insolvent in April and went out of business for good June 29, forcing tank owners there to seek private insurance to meet the federal mandate of $1 million in liability coverage per incident.

State UST funds in Florida and Illinois could soon run out money, according to Dennis Rounds...

Continued on page 37

HONORING OLD & NEW
The world of public-access golf marks two momentous occasions in July. New York City’s Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course (above), the nation’s oldest public-access course, celebrates its centenary this month. For the story on its week-long commemoration, see page 35. Meanwhile, the nation’s 15,000th facility has opened for play: Poolsbrook Golf Course, a family-run daily fee in Kirkville, N.Y. See story page 46.

Not a cornstalk in sight
Cooks Creek, a collaborative effort between Dr. Michael Hurdzan and touring pro John Cook, used to be a cornfield. Now it’s Ashville, Ohio’s newest attraction. For story, see page 27.

Taxing setback in Florida court
By Hal Phillips
NAPLES, Fla. — A precedent-setting battle is brewing here in South Florida where 12 Collier County golf clubs have challenged their property assessments in court. For the moment, golf industry fortunes are flagging. Judge Ted Broussard has upheld the municipal appraisal of Quail Creek Country Club in Naples, which argued the assessment was more than $3 million too high.

However, the remaining 11 clubs have yet to have...” Continued on page 43

Ever-shrinking dollar posing problems for manufacturers
By Hal Phillips
America’s ongoing currency woes are beginning to affect golf course industry firms, some of which have discarded product lines dependent on overseas manufacturing agreements. Others continue to monitor the situation closely, recognizing the possibility that plunging dollar values may render those agreements unfeasible in the long-term.

“Anybody importing from Japan any commodity is impacted by the currency situation,” said John Brozek, director of industrial Product Sales at Daihatsu, which will cease production of its Hijet utility vehicle in December.

Like Daihatsu, Mitsubishi manufactures its Mighty Mit utility vehicle in Japan, but that will soon end, confirmed Bob Hertel, industrial vehicle man...” Continued on page 41
Dealing with the shrinking dollar

Continued from page 1
ager for the company. Was it a weak dollar or the Mighty Mid’s disappointing penetration into the highly competitive utility vehicle market? “I don’t have a comment on that,” said Hertel. At Ransomes America Corp., production of its lightweight utility vehicle, the Sprinter, has fallen under increased in-house scrutiny. Aside from its steering apparatus and the rear cargo box, the Sprinter is manufactured by Korean conglomerate Hyundai.

“If [the U.S.] currency continues to get weaker as well in a hand basket, we’ve got to do something or our customers will go elsewhere,” said Peter Whurr, director of product management and training at Ransomes America Corp. “Obviously, the world currency situation is worrying us...” An industry that’s price-sensitive market, probably more so than other parts of the world. To compete in this market, you have to offer a good product at a good price. And if the currency situation squeezes you there, it’s just not feasible.

“We have inventory, parts and supplies of the [Sprinter] product and we intend to fully back the product up. But we are monitoring the situation.”

Whurr explained that Ransomes’ Edgewater, Fla., facility manufactures products similar to the Sprinter: the UTV, UTV Max series, and F-series products. The M-series — a 42-horsepower tractor with low-emission engines — begins production this month and should hit the market in September, he said.

Whurr, for one, said he wasn’t surprised to hear of Kubota’s here-to-stay attitude.

“We’re probably one of the biggest users of Kubota engines outside Kubota. So if there were any changes in store, I would imagine we would have heard about it,” he said.

ITPF awards $20,000 in research grants

ROLLING MEADOWS, Ill. — Research grants totaling $20,000 have been awarded to four university research bodies by the International Turf Producers Foundation based here.

These projects were selected by the Foundation’s Research Committee from among 12 studies submitted by 21 researchers at 10 institutions, representing a total of $121,500 for the 1994-95 fiscal year. Projects receiving support this year are:


“Biological Control of Annual Bluegrass,” Dr. Paul Goodwin, University of Guelph.

“Resistance of Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars to Necrotic Ring Spot,” Dr. Tom Hsiang, University of Guelph.

“Advancement of Genetic Resistance in Bluegrass and Creeping Bentgrass to Patch Disease.”

For more information, contact TPI at 800-405-8873.

West Coast buys out Warren’s Calif. branch

WINCHESTER, Calif. — With its acquisition of the Warren’s Turf operation here, West Coast Turf has added another arrow to its increasingly replete quiver.

The acquisition, finalized May 1, is 1995’s first significant move for Palm Desert-based West Coast Turf, which bought out the company’s Southern California Products and opened its Las Vegas office in 1994.

The 200 acres here — just one of many Warren’s locations that has fallen under increased in-house scrutiny will enable us to broaden our product line,” explained John Foster, president of West Coast Turf.

Dealing with the shrinking dollar

Continued from page 1

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